

# TEMPLAR NEWS - OMSDT

• SEPTEMBER 2023 • VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 6 • FRONT PAGE •



## OMSDT Calendar

**SEPTEMBER 07 ROUND TABLE**

**SEPTEMBER 09 ORDER-WIDE  
DAY OF CHARITABLE SERVICE**

**SEPTEMBER 21 ROUND TABLE**

ALL ROUND TABLES ARE HELD AT  
| 6 PM PACIFIC | 7 PM MOUNTAIN |  
| 8 PM CENTRAL | 9 PM EASTERN |  
ZOOM LINKS WILL BE POSTED ON BELIEFBOOK.  
*(BIBLE STUDIES ON SUMMER BREAK)*



**THE DAY  
IS  
UPON US!**



**A**s well as spreading the love of Christ in our communities and making charitable monetary donations, performing works of charitable service is a very important aspect of the purpose of our Order.

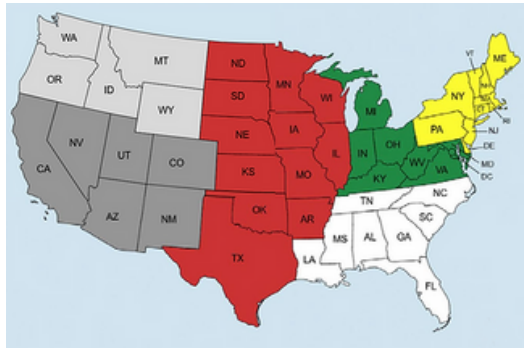
Although we encourage charitable service by our members as often as is possible, the second Saturday of every September will be an Order-wide event in which all members will participate.

If you're regionally close to other Priory members, please work together on a charitable service project. If you're not close to any members, please perform a project you can do individually or by inviting friends and family to help you out.

The charitable service or volunteer work may consist of a variety of things, generally works of service that would best serve each members' own community, for a minimum of four hours, if possible.

## Another member makes a move!

On August 3rd, brother **Tim Whittenberg**, loaded up a 26' truck with his belongings, along with taking two cars and five pets to make a cross-country move from Montana to Florida with his family for a job relocation. Brother Tim's relocation to Florida will now transfer him from the Priory of King David to the Priory of the Holy Trinity.



## TEMPLAR ACADEMIE

"CHRIST-FOCUSED IN ALL THAT WE DO"

### CONGRATULATIONS!

TO THESE MEMBERS FOR COMPLETING  
ACADÉMIE CLASSWORK IN THE  
MONTH OF AUGUST 2023

PAUL AGUILAR (SAA Classes)  
THOMAS FELTS (SAA Classes)  
HARRIET KAMUKAMA (CAA Classes)  
JACOB PRICE (SAA Classes)  
WILLIAM RYAN (SAA Classes)  
WILFRED SMITH (SAA Classes)  
AUNG MOE THEIN (SAA Classes)  
MARCIN RUTKOWSKI (CAA Classes)  
[Brother Marcin actually completed  
in July 2023]



## FROM THE DESK OF OUR GC

September 2023 featured  
Guest Column writer,  
SSGT Kelmy Rodriguez



## U NDERSTANDING THE CONTEMPLATIVE SPIRIT

During my post-seminary years, many people would ask me many great questions. I decided to include some of these questions in this article to share my knowledge as we are charged to do so by the doctrine of love. I reflect on Proverbs 27:17, "*As iron sharpens iron, So one person sharpens another.*" Through the Priesthood, I had a basic understanding of Contemplative Spirituality.

However, my spiritual eye developed when I became a Benedictine Monk and began to understand the processes and knowledge of a contemplative being searching for that divine state of Grace. In my observation and studies, I have concluded the Templars understood the concepts and process of Contemplative Spirituality. Many forget that the Knight Templars were not simply warriors but also Monks. History has styled them as "Warrior Monks" for reasons.

### What is Contemporary Spiritual Warfare?

Contemporary Spiritual Warfare is based on a biblical perspective that engages the current issues of secular society and other religions. We believe that various external influences and demonic attacks on Christians today are not always resolved by simply reading or preaching from the Word of God. To govern in life, we must receive spiritual authority over our lives and gain a clear understanding of who we are in Christ.

### What is Contemplative Spirituality?

Contemplative spirituality, also known as a form of contemplative Prayer or centering Prayer, comprises methods of meditation aimed at training

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## FROM THE DESK OF OUR GC

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attention and cultivating an ongoing awareness of God or an aspect or facet of God. Examples of such training include visualization, contemplation, repetitive Prayer, and breath prayer. The term "contemplative" has a specialized meaning in Western Christianity that differs from the Eastern understanding.

### What is Contemplative Prayer?

Contemplative Prayer is a form of meditation that focuses on God and the love of God with no agenda for what to think or how one should feel. It simply comes before the Lord with love and longing to worship Him. In contemplative Prayer, there are no distractions from past hurts, fear of the future, or anxiety about this present moment; it is simply giving oneself to God with no thought for self-preservation.

A Contemplative Prayer is when one sits in silence and allows one's mind to go to God. It is not forced thought or mental repetition, as in mantra meditation. Instead, it is a simple quieting of the reason that allows God to speak and fill the void with His presence. Contemplative Prayer is about fully experiencing God's presence, not achieving an altered state of consciousness.

### What is Contemplative Spirituality?

Contemplative spirituality is a broad and ambiguous term referring to an umbrella of practices used to train the mind or attune it to the divine. It is demonstrated most clearly through silence, mantra, and ritual practice. It encourages practitioners to focus on one idea or thought for long periods, sometimes leading to trance-like states.

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### [What are the dangers of Contemplative Spirituality?](#)

The dangers of contemplative spirituality include meditation that denies God's revelation in Christ but glorifies humanity's perspective of God. The trouble is when we stop looking to God's Word as our ultimate authority and seek enlightenment elsewhere (John 16:13). Meditation also leads one to believe that they have found the truth or the "truth" when they have only foreseen their own work. This is an unfortunate occurrence within people who need a solid and well-grounded relationship with Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

### [The Takeaway](#)

Once you can understand the Contemplative Spiritual Life, you will build a solid foundation in Faith incorporating an active Prayer Life. Always remember, we are only as strong as our Faith and Prayers. Until then, you reluctantly pivot sway to the enemy and his agents of destruction.

You were born to win! When we know our true identity and who we are in Christ, we will not be afraid of any circumstance or any demonic attack. Our goal should be to equip fellow believers with the knowledge they need to exercise their authority in Jesus' name through the power of His Holy Spirit. If you live in a state of Contemplative Spirituality and incorporate an active Prayer Life, you will be unstoppable and a formidable force for the Kingdom.



*Each day, two meals were served and Templars were expected to attend seven services, although most of these were shorter prayer meetings, such as matins, prime, compline or vespers and not full-length Masses. Following the Council of Troyes, and almost unrelentingly for many years after, recruits joined in droves; partly due to religious fervor and partly because of the passion so many felt about reclaiming and defending the Holy sites.*

## PROTOCOL PAGE

*THIS PAGE WILL SERVE AS A REFRESHER COURSE TO HELP US ALL REMEMBER CERTAIN PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES OF THE ORDER*

### CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR

**K**nowing the proper conduct and behavior among the membership and the Order's leadership is important. Our Order is a religious organization, but we do follow a military style structure with regard to chain-of-command, discipline and merit-based promotions. You may feel it's tricky to know whether to salute, jump to attention or nod when interacting with members.

But relax - our emphasis here is based more on sister-brotherhood, yet still having the proper respect for rank and position. In formal situations, there is Templar etiquette that will be important to know. And you will likely be guided ahead of time at a real-time event.

**PERSONAL FEELINGS.** What if you do not like one or more of your fellow members? As much as we promote and encourage unity, we realize that some people just may not like someone. It happens. You are not required to have every member on your friend list on BeliefBook and you are not required to socialize with them.

However, you **ARE** expected to maintain professional behavior at all times. There is no excuse for rude or inappropriate behavior. You must find a way to work and serve with this person and not allow it to interfere with Priory or Order affairs. You can always consult your Priory leader or your Priory Chaplain for help with this.

**SALUTES.** Generally speaking, we do not salute one another. However, a salute may be appropriate in recognition of a promotion. Salutes may be given when appropriate to recognize a superior ranking officer, to acknowledge achievement, or at any time to show respect. Salutes can be

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## PROTOCOL PAGE

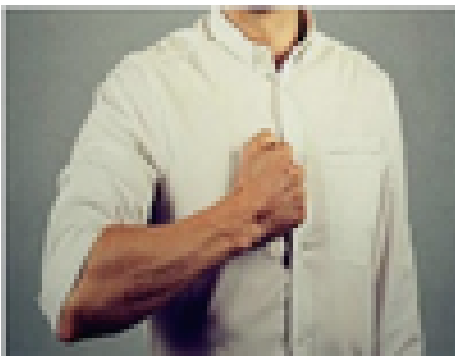
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### CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR

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acknowledge achievement, or at any time to show respect. Salutes can be initiated by a lower-ranking person to a higher-ranking person as a demonstration of respect. Salutes may also be given by a higher-ranking person to a lower-ranking person to acknowledge achievement. Salutes can be performed in the usual U.S. military style where you stand erect and bring your flat right hand swiftly up to your brow and hold it until your salute is acknowledged.

TEMPLAR SALUTE. There is a Templar Salute that is called the "Swordless Salute".



It begins as a closed fist against the heart as if holding an invisible sword against your face. The idea is that a sword is not needed between sisters/brothers.



*Templar knights generally did not practice self-denial through fasting nor did they punish themselves with beatings or hair shirts (a coarse garment intended to be worn next to the skin, keeping the wearer in a state of discomfort). The Rule accepted that they needed to be strong and healthy and one of their main duties was to be ready to fight at any time. This was another reason why some Templars joined for short periods—the training and discipline was good for the body, while being in a religious environment and partaking in regular prayers was good for the soul. This kind of retreat became quite popular and both parties gained, as all the temporary Templars were expected to donate heavily for the privilege of joining the Order for a short time.*